In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1 - 20 and add new claims 21 - 39, as follows:

1 - 20 (Cancelled).

21. (New) An actuator system for a full thickness resection device including a control handle which remains outside a patient's body and a working head assembly coupled to the control handle by a flexible sheath which extends from the control handle into a body lumen of the patient via a naturally occurring orifice to a working head assembly coupled to a distal end thereof wherein, when the device is in an operative position, the working head assembly is located adjacent to a portion of tissue to be stapled, the working head assembly including a tissue stapling mechanism with first and second tissue stapling members moveable relative to one another, the actuator system comprising:

an actuator mounted on the control handle;

a first cable extending from the actuator through the flexible sheath to the first tissue stapling member so that, when the actuator is operated to draw the first cable proximally from the sheath, the first tissue stapling member is moved in a first direction relative to the second tissue stapling member; and

a second cable extending from the first tissue stapling member to the control handle so that, when the second cable is drawn proximally from the sheath, the first tissue stapling member is moved relative to the second tissue stapling member in a second direction opposite to the first direction.

22. (New) The system according to claim 21, further comprising a resilient member biasing the first tissue stapling member relative to the second tissue stapling member in a second

direction opposite to the first direction so that, when no force is applied to the first cable, the first tissue stapling member is moved in the second direction relative to the second tissue stapling member.

23 (New) The device according to claim 22, wherein the first tissue stapling member is an anvil and the second tissue stapling member is a staple firing mechanism.

24. (New) The device according to claim 23, wherein the anvil is mounted to a shaft which is slidably coupled to the working head assembly and wherein the resilient member is a spring coupled between the shaft and the working head assembly.

25. (New) The device according to claim 21, wherein the first tissue stapling member is an anvil and the second tissue stapling member is a staple firing mechanism and wherein the second cable extends around a pulley to coupled to the anvil so that, when the second cable is drawn proximally from the sheath, the anvil is moved distally relative to the staple firing mechanism.

26. (New) The device according to claim 25, wherein the anvil is mounted to a shaft which is slidably coupled to the working head assembly and wherein the second cable is coupled to the shaft.

27. (New) The device according to claim 26, wherein the anvil is coupled to a shaft slidably received within the working head assembly and wherein the first cable extends from a distal end of the shaft, through the sheath to the actuator so that, drawing the first cable proximally from the sheath draws the anvil proximally relative to the staple firing mechanism.

28. (New) The device according to claim 21, further comprising a locking member on the control handle allowing an operator to lock the first and second tissue stapling members in a desired position relative to one another.

29. (New) A full thickness resection device comprising:

a control handle including an actuator wherein, when the device is in an operative position within a body lumen of a patient, the control handle remains outside the patient's body;

a working head assembly coupled to the control handle wherein, when the device is in the operative position; the working head assembly is located within a body lumen of the patient adjacent to a portion of tissue to be resected, the working head assembly including first and second tissue coupling members moveable relative to one another;

a flexible drive shaft extending from the actuator to the working head assembly; and

a first mounting bar coupled to the first tissue coupling member and movably received within the working head assembly, the first mounting bar being coupled to the drive shaft via a first threading so that, as the drive shaft is rotated relative to the first mounting bar, the first mounting bar and the first tissue coupling member move along a longitudinal axis of the drive shaft relative to the second tissue stapling member.

30. (New) The device according to claim 29, wherein the first and second tissue coupling members are an anvil and a staple firing mechanism of a stapling apparatus, respectively.

31. (New) The device according to claim 29, wherein the first and second tissue coupling members are a staple firing mechanism and an anvil of a stapling apparatus, respectively.

32. (New) The device according to claim 29, wherein the first threading is formed on a distal end of the drive shaft.

33. (New) The device according to claim 29, wherein the first threading is formed on a first threaded rod and wherein the device further comprises a gearing mechanism coupled between the

drive shaft and the threaded rod so that rotation of the drive shaft rotates the gearing mechanism which rotates the first threaded rod.

34. (New) The device according to claim 33, further comprising a second mounting bar coupled to the first tissue coupling member and movably received within the working head assembly.

35. (New) The device according to claim 34, further comprising a second threading received within a threaded channel formed within the second mounting bar, the second threading being formed on a second threaded member coupled to the first threading via a gearing mechanism so that rotation of the drive shaft rotates the first and second threadings to rotate the gearing mechanism which rotates the second threaded member within the threaded channel of the second mounting bar.

36. (New) The device according to claim 34, wherein the drive shaft is coupled to the first and second threaded members via a gearing mechanism.

37. (New) The device according to claim 29, further comprising a second mounting bar coupled to the first tissue coupling member and movably received within the working head assembly, the second mounting bar being coupled to the first mounting bar by a yoke member.

38. (New) The device according to claim 29, further comprising a locking member on the control handle allowing an operator to lock the first and second tissue coupling members in a desired position relative to one another.

39. (New) The device according to claim 30, wherein rotation of the drive shaft in a first direction moves the anvil away from the tissue stapling mechanism and rotation of the drive shaft in a second direction opposite to the first direction moves the anvil toward the tissue stapling mechanism.